

Message Text

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PARIS PLEASE PASS SECRETARY BROWN'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, OVIP (SECDEF BROWN)

SUBJECT: FOLLOWING IS THE VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAROLD BROWN'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT
NATO HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS, FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1978,
FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE
MINISTERIAL MEETING, MAY 18-19, 1978.

BEGIN TEXT:
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GOOD AFTERNOON LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I'D LIKE TO OPEN WITH
A FEW REMARKS AND THEN LEAVE MOST OF THE TIME FOR QUESTIONS.

THE JUST CONCLUDED DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING I
CONSIDER TO HAVE BEEN A VERY PRODUCTIVE ONE. IT WAS
DEVOTED, AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, LARGELY TO THE LONG TERM

DEFENSE PLAN, THE PREPARATION OF WHICH WAS LAUNCHED AS A RESULT OF THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING IN LONDON LAST YEAR. ITS PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE GREATER MILITARY CAPABILITY FROM THE ALLIANCE RESOURCES THROUGH COORDINATION AND COOPERATION ON DEFENSE PRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING. IT INCLUDES AN ATTEMPT TO SHORE UP THOSE DEFICIENCIES THAT WE SEE IN THE ALLIANCE AS IT IS FACED WITH A GRADUALLY INCREASING MILITARY CAPABILITY ON THE PART OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE REST OF THE WARSAW PACT.

YOU'LL RECALL THAT LAST SPRING THE DEFENSE MINISTERS AT AN EARLIER DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO SEEK INCREASES IN DEFENSE BUDGETS OF THEIR NATIONS OF THREE PERCENT A YEAR IN REAL TERMS, THAT IS AFTER INFLATION. AND THAT HAS CLEARLY HAD AN EFFECT. THE GREAT BULK OF THE NATIONS INVOLVED NOW HAVE FIRM PLANS IN THAT DIRECTION INVOLVING INCREASING THEIR DEFENSE EXPENDITURES BY ABOUT THAT AMOUNT. THE SOVIETS, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN INCREASING THEIR DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AT 4 OR 5 PERCENT A YEAR IN REAL TERMS FOR 16 OR 18 YEARS NOW AND APPARENTLY CONTINUE TO DO SO. SO WE WON'T BE QUITE CATCHING UP OR EVEN QUITE KEEPING UP, SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF OUR EXPENDITURES.

THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PLAN PROVIDES A MEANS TO ORGANIZE OUR EFFORTS SO THAT WE ARE ABLE TO FIGHT, TO PREPARE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL BE ABLE TO FIGHT, AS AN ALLIANCE RATHER THAN AS INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. WITH ALL THAT REQUIRES IN THE WAY OF INTEROPERABLE EQUIPMENT, UNIFIED PLANNING AND SO ON. I HAVE CONSIDERABLE OPTIMISM NOW THAT BY VIRTUE OF THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PLAN, WHICH IS ORIENTED TOWARDS THE PERIOD FROM NOW UNTIL INTO THE 1990'S, THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET AN EFFECTIVENESS, AN IMPROVEMENT IN EFFECTIVENESS, THAT GOES BEYOND THIS THREE PERCENT A YEAR INCREASE IN EXPENDITURES IN REAL TERMS.

I'D BE GLAD TO TAKE QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: SECRETARY BROWN, DID YOU DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE AND POSSIBLE CONFLICT BETWEEN NATO FORCES AND CUBAN FORCES IN THAT AREA?

SECRETARY BROWN: NATO AS SUCH, OF COURSE, IS NOT INVOLVED IN ZAIRE. AND THERE'S NO SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ALWAYS STORIES IN A CASE LIKE THIS, THAT THERE ARE CUBAN FORCES. THE OPERATION IS AN OPERATION OF RESCUE, IN SO FAR AS I CAN UNDERSTAND IT FROM THE NATIONS INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE OPERATION. THAT'S SPECIFICALLY BELGIUM. THE UNITED STATES IS NOT INVOLVED EVEN TO THAT EXTENT. WE

HAVE NO COMBAT FORCES PLANNED TO GO IN THERE. WE ARE IN THE POSITION OF, AT LEAST BEING WILLING TO CONCERT, SUPPORTING WITH AIRLIFT CAPABILITIES, TO CARRY FUEL FOR EXAMPLE. BEYOND THAT OUR INVOLVEMENT DOESN'T GO. AND THAT I THINK IS ABOUT ALL I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO SAY ON THAT SUBJECT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, COULD YOU TELL US WHAT SORT OF

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OFFSET MIGHT BE REQUESTED BY GERMANY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE AWACS PROGRAM, NOW THAT THIS PROGRAM SEEMS TO BE FIRING UP?

SECRETARY BROWN: THE PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGE TO GERMANY, AS TO THE OTHER NATIONS THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE AWACS PROGRAM, WOULD OF COURSE BE THE DEFENSE CAPABILITY THAT IT PROVIDES. HOWEVER, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATIONS

BEING WHAT THEY ARE IN ALL NATIONS, THE CONCERNS ABOUT INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC OFFSETS DO ARISE. I'VE PROVIDED THE DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, UNCLASSIFIED

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MR. APEL, WITH A DETAILED RUNDOWN OF WHAT SORTS OF OFFSETS AND RETURNS THERE WOULD BE IN ECONOMIC TERMS. THERE WOULD BE A VERY SUBSTANTIAL INDUSTRIAL OFFSET BECAUSE A GOOD DEAL OF THE EQUIPMENT, SUB-COMPONENTS AND SO ON, COULD BE MADE IN GERMANY. THAT, HOWEVER, WILL NOT AMOUNT TO 100 PERCENT. IT'S PERHAPS MORE LIKE 40 PERCENT. THERE IS AN INTENTION TO HAVE A MAIN OPERATING BASE AND, WITHOUT SAYING WHERE IT WOULD BE, THAT WOULD PROVIDE A VERY SUBSTANTIAL OFFSET, BOTH IN TERMS OF IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION AND ALSO IN TERMS OF OPERATING COSTS WHICH ARE SPENT OF COURSE IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THE MAIN OPERATING BASE WOULD BE. WHEN ALL THESE THINGS ARE ADDED UP, THE OFFSET -- THE ECONOMIC OFFSET -- WOULD OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS BE VERY SUBSTANTIAL, AND MIGHT VERY WELL APPROXIMATE, ALTHOUGH I WOULD NOT SAY THAT IT WOULD EQUAL, THE FINANCIAL COST.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, IN THAT CONNECTION CAN YOU CLARIFY HOW THINGS STAND NOW ON THE AMERICAN PURCHASE OF THE TANK GUN, THE GERMAN TANK GUN.

SECRETARY BROWN: THE U.S. PLANNED, AND CONTINUES TO PLAN, AND EXPECTS TO USE AT AN EARLY POINT IN THE XM-1 PRODUCTION LINE THE 120 MM GUN, DESIGNED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. IT'LL BE MANUFACTURED ALMOST IN ITS ENTIRETY -- THAT IS ALMOST ALL THE GUNS SO USED WILL BE MANUFACTURED -- IN THE UNITED STATES, JUST AS IS THE 105 MM GUN NOW USED ON THE EARLY VERSIONS OF THE XM-1 WHICH MIGHT BE DESCRIBED AS A BRITISH GUN BECAUSE IT WAS DESIGNED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IS PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE FISCAL YEAR 1979 BUDGET CONTAINS SOME RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MONEY WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY TO ADAPT THE 120 MM FRG DESIGN OF THAT GUN TO THE XM-1 TANK, AND THERE UNCLASSIFIED

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IS A REPROGRAMMING ACTION TO TRANSFER SOME MONEY IN THE 1978 BUDGET TO THAT END, THAT IS IN PROCESS OF BEING APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS. IT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY A NUMBER OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES, WHICH AT THE SAME TIME ISSUE CAUTIONS, DISAPPROVING NOISES, AND SO ON. BUT, THAT REPROGRAMMING IS MOVING THROUGH, THE FUNDS WILL

BE AVAILABLE, THE DESIGN IS GOING TO PROCEED, AND IT'S OUR INTENTION AND EXPECTATION THAT THE BULK OF THE XM-1'S WILL CARRY THE 120 MM DESIGN GUN THAT HAD BEEN DESIGNED IN THE FRG.

QUESTION: TALKING OF CONGRESS, MR. SECRETARY, I WONDER IF YOU COULD SAY HOW YOU SEE THE PROSPECTS AND THE TIME SCALE FOR THE POSSIBLE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO ON TURKEY?

SECRETARY BROWN: THAT AGAIN IS A COMPLICATED PROCESS IN THE CONGRESS. THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVED BY AN 18 TO 17 MARGIN THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO PROVISIONS, PROVISION 620-X IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, OF THE FOREIGN AID BILL, AND REPORTED IT FAVORABLY OUT TO THE FLOOR. THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, ON THE OTHER HAND, AFTER EQUALLY BRILLIANT AND CONVINCING TESTIMONY BY THE SAME PEOPLE, MYSELF INCLUDED, VOTED 8 TO 4 AGAINST LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO. A NUMBER OF SENATORS WERE ABSENT AND THE VOTE MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT HAD THEY BEEN PRESENT, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO CHANGE THE OUTCOME. THIS GIVES US A COMPLICATED PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION. THE HOUSE WILL BE DEBATING THIS; THE SENATE WILL BE DEBATING THIS. I BELIEVE THERE MAY BE FURTHER TESTIMONY ON THE MATTER, AND I THINK THAT IT WILL BE A MATTER OF A MONTH, OR MONTHS PERHAPS, BEFORE IT IS RESOLVED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

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THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO MAKE VERY STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO THE CONGRESS ON THIS MATTER -- ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO -- TO IMPROVE NOT ONLY TURKEY'S SECURITY BUT GREECE'S SECURITY AS WELL, AND THE SECURITY OF THE NATO ALLIANCE AND OF THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE THE WHOLE COHESION OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK DEPENDS ON KEEPING NATO'S MEMBERS, GREECE AND TURKEY, IN A VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP TO NATO, MAKING THEM FULL PARTICIPANTS IN NATO AGAIN. THE ADMINISTRATION WILL PUSH VERY HARD ON THIS, AND I HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT THE CONGRESS WILL COME UNCLASSIFIED

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TO SHARE OUR PERCEPTION OF SUCH AN ACTION AS NECESSARY IN THE INTEREST OF U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY. AFTER ALL, THE SITUATION HAS BEEN THAT THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS, AND IT CLEARLY HAS NOT SOLVED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

QUESTION: SIR, YOU SAID "MONTH AND MONTHS" OR MONTH IT WILL TAKE TO....

SECRETARY BROWN: I SAID "A MONTH OR MONTHS"

QUESTION: ...DO YOU BELIEVE THAT BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS OF THE CONGRESS THIS CAN COME UP. THE SECOND QUESTION, DO YOU THINK THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL SOLVE TURKEY'S PROBLEMS?

SECRETARY BROWN: NO SINGLE ACT SOLVES ALL OF ANY COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. I THINK THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS WILL BE RESOLVED THIS SUMMER. IF THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED, I THINK IT WOULD HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE EFFECT ON NEGOTIATIONS IN THE AREA AND I THINK THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO AN EASING OF THE PROBLEMS OF ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THAT AREA -- TURKEY, GREECE AND CYPRUS. AGAIN, I HAVE BEEN AROUND TOO LONG TO THINK A SINGLE ACTION CAN SOLVE PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH A SINGLE ACTION CAN CERTAINLY CREATE VERY SERIOUS ONES.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, CAN I GO BACK TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION TO DEFER HIS DECISION ON THE "NEUTRON

WEAPON?" IS THERE GOING TO BE SOME DEFINITION SOME-
TIME AS TO WHAT THIS DEFINITION IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE?
OR WOULD HAVE TO LOOK LIKE?

SECRETARY BROWN: NO DEFINITION HAS BEEN GIVEN YET, AND
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IT'S STILL BEING CONSIDERED. I AM NOT PREPARED TO SAY
THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A SPECIFIC STATEMENT OF WHAT
THE REQUIREMENT WOULD BE. THERE MAYBE, BUT THAT HAS NOT
YET BEEN WORKED OUT.

QUESTION: SECRETARY BROWN, AGAIN CONCERNING THE QUESTION
OF THE EMBARGO. RECENTLY THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER SAID
THAT HE WANTED THE EMBARGO TO BE LIFTED NOT TO USE THE
AMERICAN ARMS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION, BECAUSE TURKEY
DOES NOT CONSIDER THE SOVIET UNION AS AN ENEMY, BUT
BECAUSE SHE CONSIDER GREECE AS AN ENEMY. WOULD YOU COMMENT
ON THAT?

SECRETARY BROWN: I WON'T COMMENT ON A STATEMENT THAT I
HAVE NOT SEEN, AND READ AND EXAMINED MYSELF.

QUESTION: SIR, IN THE CONTEXT OF IMPROVING NATO READINESS,
DO YOU NOW EXPECT A SECOND DUTCH ARMY BRIGADE TO BE
STATIONED IN GERMANY?

SECRETARY BROWN: NEGOTIATIONS ON THAT ISSUE ARE UNDER WAY.
IT'S A COMPLICATED ISSUE BECAUSE IT INVOLVES, AT LEAST
POTENTIALLY, ALL THE COUNTRIES WITH FORCES IN NORTHAG --
NORTHERN ARMY GROUP, THAT IS NOT ONLY THE DUTCH BUT ALSO
THE BRITISH AND GERMANS. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF
COURSE IS THAT THE DUTCH CORPS BE ABLE TO MOVE AS
QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE INTO A FORWARD POSITION, WHERE IT CAN
DETER AND DEFEND AGAINST A POSSIBLE WARSAW PACT INVASION.
THE POSITIONING OF A SECOND BRIGADE FORWARD IS ONE WAY TO
DO THAT, AND A GOOD WAY. THAT IS BEING LOOKED AT. HOW
IT WILL COME OUT I DON'T KNOW. WE CERTAINLY WOULD LIKE TO
SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN.

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QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, THE THREE PERCENT EXPENDITURE
TARGET IS VERY IMPRESSIVE BUT WHAT KIND OF ECONOMIC RIDERS
HAVE BEEN ATTACHED WHICH (INAUDIBLE) FROM MAKING THIS KIND
OF EXPENDITURE INCREASE?

SECRETARY BROWN: WELL IT'S A GENERAL COMMITMENT. NATUARLLY
IT'S GOING TO DEPEND SOMEWHAT ON ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES
AND IT WOULD ALSO DEPEND, FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF THE MILLENIUM OR SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES, IN THE
WAY OF AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT THAT WOULD PRODUCE
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SUBSTANTIAL ARMS REDUCTIONS IN BOTH THE WARSAW PACT AND
NATO. BUT THE BEST WAY TO JUDGE IT, I WOULD SAY, IS TO
LOOK AT WHAT SPECIFIC COUNTRIES ARE DOING -- HAVE BEEN
DOING AND ARE DOING -- AND AS I LOOK AT THAT I SEE THAT
MOST OF THEM NOW HAVE PROGRAMMED THREE PERCENT INCREASES,
SOME BEGINNING THIS YEAR SOME BEGINNING NEXT YEAR. SO,
I THINK THAT MANY MORE ARE LIVING UP TO THAT COMMITMENT
THAN ARE NOT, AND VERY FEW IF ANY HAVE SOUGHT AND USED
LOOPHOLES.

THERE'S ONE IN THE BACK.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, IN THE CONTEXT OF AWACS AND THE OFFSET FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC MR. APEL APPARENTLY IS EXPECTING SOME ORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR TRUCKS FOR THE U.S. TROOPS IN GERMANY AS WELL AS TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT. I WONDER, YOU DID NOT MENTION THAT IN YOUR STATEMENT. DO YOU CONSIDER THIS ASIDE FROM THE OFFSET PART FOR AWACS?

SECRETARY BROWN: WELL IT'S PART OF THE TWO-WAY STREET ISSUE AND THERE'S A NATURAL TENDENCY IN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS TO TRY TO MAKE EACH ARRANGEMENT PAY BACK FOR ITSELF FULLY AND THEN GET AT SOME ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. I DON'T CONSIDER THOSE AN ECONOMIC OFFSET NEARLY AS MUCH AS A POLITICAL OFFSET AND I THINK THAT THERE IS.... I HAVE SOME CONFIDENCE THAT THE TRUCK CONTRACT CAN BE SIGNED IN THE REASONABLY NEAR FUTURE. A TELEPHONE ARRANGEMENT -- THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF TELEPHONES -- DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON WHAT THE PRICE IS. I WOULD FIND IT VERY HARD TO JUSTIFY TO MY CONGRESS BUYING OR LEASING TELEPHONE SERVICE AT AN ENORMOUSLY HIGHER PRICE THAN IT COULD BE GOTTEN FROM U.S. FIRMS. SO THERE IS APT TO BE MORE NEGOTIATION ON THAT AND I HOPE, BUT CAN'T SAY WHETHER, SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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GOING TO BE FEASIBLE. I VIEW THOSE AS PART OF THE MORE GENERAL ISSUE OF THE TWO-WAY STREET. AND IF, AS I SUSPECT, WE SUCCEED IN SOME AND FAIL IN OTHERS, WE'LL JUST KEEP TRYING AND KEEP TRYING TO FIND MORE THAT CAN SERVE THAT POLITICAL PURPOSE OF A TWO-WAY STREET. AT THE SAME TIME I ANTICIPATE THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE FINDING, AND WILL CONTINUE TO FIND, ADDITIONAL U.S. EQUIPMENT WHICH THEY CAN PURCHASE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE MILITARY CAPABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
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